



Hollywood: Her Story August 2024 ENewsletter Movies that Influenced Olympic Fencers

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, the number one reason that Olympic fencers chose to be fencers in the first place was – *Star Wars*! They loved the lightsabers in the movie and for many that was their first fencing weapon. It was then just natural to graduate to steel. Other movies that had a significant influence on these Olympic fencers included *The Princess Bride*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, and *The Parent Trap*. Let's learn about the women from *Hollywood: Her Story, An Illustrated History of Women and the Movies* who helped make some of these movies happen.



The first of the Star Wars juggernaut was released in 1977 as *Star Wars* (subsequently renamed *Episode IV: A New Hope*) and introduced the world to lightsabers. **Carrie Fisher** starred as Princess Leia, the role for which she will always be remembered by the movie-going public. In later movies the Princess became a General. **Marcia Lucas** co-edited the movie and shared the 1978 Best Film Editing Oscar for it. She had previously been nominated for the Best Film Editing Oscar in 1974 for *American Graffiti*. Nine movies have been released in the Star Wars series, all of which have been nominated for Academy Awards.



A movie released in 1987 that has become a classic, *The Princess Bride*, features a swordfight that “demanded nothing less than the greatest sword fight in history.” No wonder it inspired Olympic fencers! British costume designer **Phyllis Dalton**, who designed the costumes for the movie, spent more than four decades working in film and television and has received the accolade of Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE). Having designed costumes for more than forty films, Dalton won her first Costume Design Oscar in 1996 for *Dr. Zhivago* and her second in 1990 for *Henry V*. British makeup artist **Lois Burwell** has worked on more than fifty films over more than four decades in the movie industry, including this one. She frequently partners with director Steven Spielberg. Burwell shared the Best Makeup Oscar for *Braveheart* in 1996 and shared the Best Makeup Oscar nomination for *Saving Private Ryan* in 1999.



The three films in Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy were filmed simultaneously over an 18-month period in his native New Zealand. The first of the trilogy, the 2001 film *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*, has been placed in the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress. It was written by a trio that included **Fran Walsh** and **Philippa Boyens**. A New Zealand-born screenwriter, producer, and lyricist, **Walsh** has been nominated for seven Oscars, most of them associated with the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, including two nominations for the first of the trilogy and one for the second of the trilogy, *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*. Three of her nominations resulted in Oscar wins for the third in the series, *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. **Boyens** is also from New Zealand and is a screenwriter and producer. She is the recipient of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her service to the film industry. She has won one writing Oscar and has been nominated a second time, both for her work associated with the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

Cate Blanchett acted in each movie of the trilogy. Blanchett received her first Oscar in 2005 for Best Supporting Actress for her work in *The Aviator* and won the Best Actress Oscar in 2014 for *Blue Jasmine*,

with six more Oscar acting nominations. New Zealand costume designer **Ngila Dickson** won a Best Costume Oscar for the third movie of the trilogy and received another Best Costume Oscar nomination that year for *The Last Samurai*. She had been previously nominated for the Best Costume Oscar for the first in the trilogy. In 2002, Irish songwriter **Enya** and Irish lyricist **Roma Shane Ryan** were nominated for the Best Music, Original Song Oscar for the song "May It Be" from the first movie in the trilogy. Scottish singer and songwriter and Dame Officer of the Order of the British Empire **Annie Lennox** shared the Best Music, Original Song Oscar for the song "Into the West" from the third of the trilogy.

Women in front of and behind the camera make the movies that we all welcome into our hearts and homes. Women across all the areas of moviemaking from actress to animator, editor to stuntwoman, costume designer to screenwriter, producer to director have contributed to the success of the movie industry since its founding in the 1890s. Help us celebrate these women who are written into movie history in *Hollywood: Her Story*.

Jill S. Tietjen and Barbara Bridges

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Hollywood: Her Story | 8547 E Arapahoe Road, PMB J189 | Greenwood Village, CO 80112 US

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